



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBE MEMBER SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STABBING HIS UNCLE.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on March 24, 2003, Merrick Gene Sam Sr., born August 19, 1961, a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, was sentenced to 33 months in prison by United States District Judge Roslyn O. Silver, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The evidence in the case demonstrated that on July 23, 2002, within the confines of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Reservation, the defendant, a transient, assaulted his uncle with a knife following a verbal dispute about a deceased family member. The defendant stabbed the victim in the chest . The victim was briefly hospitalized.

The defendant entered a plea of guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 113(a)(3). The investigation in this case was conducted by Special Agent Robert Esquerra of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The prosecution was handled by John S. Johnson, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-843-PHX-ROS
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-040

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